

OZASA et al. - 10/677,497
Attorney Docket: 008312-0306209

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-14 and 16 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 14 and 16 are amended and claims 2, 3, 15 and 17 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 14 were objected to. Claims 9 and 14 have been amended in accordance with the suggestion of the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Brinegar et al. (U.S. Patent 5,940,082) and claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Brinegar et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 3, 15 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot their rejection.

Claim 1 recites an information communication method applied to a communication system in which a plurality of client apparatuses individually having computer aided design (CAD) software are connected via a network to a server apparatus managing information. The method comprises transmitting notation information related to a notation which is different from a CAD model and is to be added to a CAD model in a CAD file screen of an arbitrary client apparatus, to the server apparatus, together with information indicating destinations of the notation information, the notation information including contents of the notation, coordinates of a position of the notation, and coordinates of a position on a CAD model to be indicated by the notation in the CAD file screen; recording the notation information transmitted to the server apparatus, on a recording medium and transmitting the notation information to one or more client apparatuses as destinations of the notation information; and displaying the notation information transmitted to each client apparatus as the destinations, on a CAD file screen of each client apparatus as the destinations.

According to the invention of claim 1, a designer can efficiently inform other designers of his indication, for example that a particular line of a model is to be curved, as a notation with respect to a mode being created in a CAD file screen.

Brinegar et al. do not disclose or suggest transmitting notation information related to a notation which is different from a CAD model and is to be added to a CAD model in a CAD file screen of an arbitrary client apparatus. Brinegar et al. disclose in column 3, lines 1-12,

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that each collaborator in the collaborative drawing session has its own copy of the shared drawing and can edit the shared drawing by adding a new drawing to it, change a part of the existing shared drawing, or perform other edit changes. The alterations of each user are captured and transmitted to the server, which then broadcasts the alterations to the clients associated with the collaborator. Each collaborator receives the alterations and incorporates them into their copy of the shared drawing.

The alterations to the shared drawing of Brinegar et al. are not notation information which is different from a CAD model and is to be added to a CAD model, as recited in claim 1. The alterations to the shared drawing of Brinegar et al. are clearly part of the CAD model and are not added to the CAD model. The alterations would not enable a collaborator to efficiently inform other collaborators of his indication, for example that a line of a model is to be curved, as a notation with respect to a mode being created in a CAD file screen. And although Brinegar et al. disclose in column 3, lines 13-19, that collaborators may send text messages, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the text messages are to be added to a CAD model in a CAD file screen. Accordingly, Brinegar et al. cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 1.

As the alterations to the shared drawing of Brinegar et al. are not notation information, it is further respectfully submitted that Brinegar et al. also fail to disclose or suggest that the notation information includes contents of the notation, coordinates of a position of the notation, and coordinates of a position on a CAD model to be indicated by the notation in the CAD file screen, as recited in claim 1.

Claims 4-6, 8 and 9 recite additional features of the invention and are allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. In addition, with respect to the Examiner's allegation on page 8, lines 5-7, of the Office Action that "the system could also have client inquiries of the server apparatus as to whether corresponding notation information has newly arrived," it is respectfully noted that the standard of obviousness, as stated in MPEP § 2143.01, "is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art." It is further respectfully noted that MPEP § 2143.01 states: Although a prior art device 'may be capable of being modified to run the way the apparatus is claimed, there must be some suggestion or motivation in the reference to do so.'"

Claim 14 recites a communication system comprising a plurality of client apparatuses individually having computer aided design (CAD) software; a server apparatus managing

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information; and a network connecting the plurality of client apparatuses and the server, wherein each of the plurality of client apparatuses is configured to transmit notation information related to a notation which is different from a CAD model and is to be added to a CAD model in a CAD file screen to the server apparatus, together with information indicating destinations of the notation information, and configured to display, on the CAD file screen, the notation information transmitted to the server apparatus, the notation information including contents of the notation, coordinates of a position of the notation, and coordinates of a position on a CAD model to be indicated by the notation in the CAD file screen, and the server apparatus is configured to record the notation information transmitted by an arbitrary client apparatus, on a recording medium and configured to transmit the notation information to one or more client apparatuses as destinations of the notation information.

There is no disclosure or suggestion by Binegar et al. of notation information as recited in claim 14. Therefore, Binegar et al. cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 14.

Claim 16 recites a client apparatus having computer aided design (CAD) software and which can transmit and receive information to and from another client via a server apparatus, the apparatus comprising a first processing section configured to transmit notation information related to a notation which is different from a CAD model and is to be added to a CAD model in a CAD file screen to one or more client apparatuses as destinations of the notation information via the server apparatus, together with information indicating destinations of the notation information, the notation information including contents of the notation, coordinates of a position of the notation, and coordinates of a position on a CAD model to be indicated by the notation in the CAD file screen; and a second processing section configured to display, on the CAD file screen, the notation information transmitted from an arbitrary client apparatus via the server apparatus.

There is no disclosure or suggestion by Binegar et al. of notation information as recited in claim 16. Binegar et al. thus cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 16.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections over Binegar et al. are respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Binegar et al. in view of Tokui et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0029510 A1); claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Binegar et al. in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0072922 A1); and claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §

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103(a) over Binegar et al. in view of Suzuki et al. and Tokui et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 7 and 10-13 recite additional features of the invention and are allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that each of Tokui et al. and Suzuki et al. fail to cure the deficiencies of Binegar et al. with respect to claim 1 and even assuming it would have been obvious to combine the references, such combinations would not have resulted in the invention of claim 1. It is further respectfully submitted that the allegations on page 10, lines 1 and 21 and page 11, line 17, that the combined references "could provide" and "could perform" also fail to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 4.

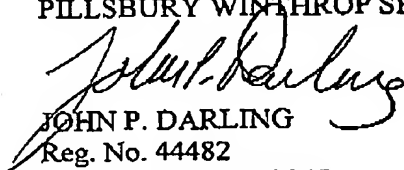
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections over Brinegar et al., Tokui et al. and Suzuki et al. are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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